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at an elevation of 182 feet. Hitherto the pre-eminence in height has been accorded to the great pyramids. That of Cheops is 484 feet, according to Smyth; that of Chephren is 454 feet, and that of Mycerimus 218 feet. Now, however, we are told that the new spire of Rouen Cathedral has overtopped the great pyramid. Its height is given as 487½ feet.—FOGY.

53. BLACKBOARD.—The following is a good recipe: One quart of shellac dissolved in alcohol, 3 ounces of pulverized pumice stone, 2 ounces of pulverized rottenstone, and 4 ounces of lampblack; mix the last three ingredients together, moisten a portion at a time with a little of the shellac and alcohol, grind as thoroughly as possible with a knife or spatula, after which pour in the remainder of the alcohol, stirring often to prevent settling. One quart will furnish two coats for 80 square feet of blackboard not previously painted. The preparation dries immediately, and the board may be used within an hour if necessary.—DOMINIE.

54. PAINT.—There is but one paint suitable for floors, *French ochre*. First, if the boards have shrunk, clean out the joints well, and, with a small brush, give them a heavy coat of boiled linseed oil, then putty up solid. Now paint the whole floor with a mixture of much oil and little ochre, for the first coat, then, after it is well dried, give two more coats of much ochre and little oil, finally finish with a coat of first-rate copal varnish. This is an extremely durable paint for floors, indoors or out, such as verandas, porticos, and the like. A floor stain is best mixed with oil, and finally varnished.—DAUBER.

55. FIRE—Wood can be made incombustible by tungstate of soda. It has been demonstrated by experiments, that wood immersed in a "pickle" of a solution of tungstate of soda cannot be ignited under any of the ordinary conditions to which it may be exposed. The tungstate is made by the addition of tungstate of lime to sulphuric acid and salt, affording us a by-product, chloride of calcium, in large quantities. The action of the tungstate upon soft woods is to render them quite hard as well as incombustible, and it also acts as a preventive against dry rot. Sticks and boards of the prepared wood have been saturated with kerosene oil and set on fire; the oil burned off entirely without igniting the wood. Two small houses have been built, one of ordinary pine wood, the other of the prepared wood, and fires of great urgency kindled in each. The one of ordinary wood was quickly consumed, while the other was left only slightly charred.—PLUTO.

56. WOOD.—Wet and dry rots are the two

forms of decay which attack timber that is exposed to the action of the weather, and the cause of both may be said to be heat with moisture. Confined air and evaporation cause dry rot, and imperfect evaporation wet rot, to a greater or less degree. Investigation shows that as a preventive against these rots the timber should be well seasoned, and if used where liable to be under the influence of sun and rain should be well painted, or if not painted should be impregnated with linseed oil or tar. The best preventive, however, is found to be that of allowing a free circulation of air around the timbers, and the walls to be allowed to dry thoroughly before the introduction of the timbers; should the timbers have taken either of these rots very little can be done to preserve them.—WEST POINT.

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